

## A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON ROSA FLORA

By Albert Ford

(adapted from the July-August 1999 MRS Newsletter)

As some of you may remember, I wrote that I intended to use a new organic product as a safeguard against blackspot this year. I said at that time that I would report back to you on the results achieved in my garden. I was hopeful that the results would not be available until the fall of this year, however, I have decided to end my trial project and return to the spray program used previously. My decision was based on the following.

1. Rosa Flora need be mixed 48 hours prior to its use and must be used before another 48 hours has expired. This limitation is at least bothersome. It is enough to spray in the first place and to plan the pleasure two days in advance is an annoying limitation. I would have been willing tolerate this inconvenience, however, had it not been for #2 below.

2. The product may be useful in curtailing blackspot to some degree, but the amount exceeds significantly at this point in the growing season than I have been accustomed to, and that in evidence in other gardens I have visited this year where more traditional products were used, i.e., **Funginex** and **Immunox**. There is a tolerance level for blackspot that varies from gardener to gardener, and mine has never been zero, but by using **Rosa Flora**<sup>TM</sup> since the first treatment in February, the level of blackspot in my garden, though not devastating, exceeds my threshold level. This is true even since brown sugar has been added to the formula to increase the population of bacteria.

3. I have noted a significant amount of leaf curling while using **Rosa Flora**<sup>TM</sup> which may be due to other causes, but, at least in my case, is consequent with its use.

4. In readying roses for exhibition, I detected a browning on the edges of petals of white and light yellow varieties which I have not experienced before. Here again, this malady, which obviates the use of the variety for rose shows, may be due to other causes, however, its appearance occurred during the time I was using Rosa Flora<sup>TM</sup> exclusively as a fungicide.

5. When **Rosa Flora**<sup>TM</sup> is mixed with **Wilt-Pruf**<sup>TM</sup>, which is recommended a sheen is applied to the foliage that can be considered a foreign substance if a sprayed variety is exhibited in an Rose Show held under ARS guidelines. It is recommended that the **Wilt-Pruf**<sup>TM</sup> not be included in the formula before a show. This is just another annoyance to contend with.

6. The material is not inexpensive, but would be worth the price to some who are looking for an organic control of blackspot. Incidentally, **Rosa Flora**<sup>TM</sup> has not protected against powdery-mildew at all.

Perfect after further experimentation with the product or a descendant of it, **Rosa-Flora**<sup>TM</sup> may be worth another try, however, for now, it is not the answer to my rose gardening problems.

If you have had experience with its use, I would like to hear from you. –Editor

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<http://www.mgs.md.gov/misc/mdrose>